

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a pallet loading and unloading sling, termed a SlingBag device, for efficiently transporting burlap bags and deploying them to secure and protect underwater pipelines. In preferred form, the SlingBag is a T-shaped mat that folds up into a four-sided bag. By using a SlingBag atop a wooden pallet, the process for loading and unloading burlap bags from the pallet may be simplified. The SlingBag comprises two rectangular mats that are arranged in a perpendicular cross section, forming a T-shaped mat. When placed upon a pallet for loading, the central panel fits atop the pallet, and the four side flaps extend outward. Burlap bags filled with dry bulk sand or dry sand/cement mix are stacked atop the pallet with the SlingBag. Then, the side flaps are folded up to form a four-sided sling container, and the lifting loops on the side panels are tied in place to secure the sling. In the preferred embodiment, the SlingBag is comprised of polypropylene. This time saving process enables the pallet to be loaded onto a transport using a forklift, and the burlap bags to be picked-up from the pallet and lowered onto the desired location using a crane with a single point pick-up. A diver or remote operated vehicle (ROV) can release the burlap bags from the SlingBag.